an inner layer, disposed between and adherent to said two outer layers, said inner layer consisting of strands of thermoplastic adhesive in a latticework configuration which adheres directly to said outer layers [without any additional adhesive], the thermoplastic adhesive strands having elastic properties at room temperature[,] such that the inner layer [being adapted to recover] causes said [latticework configuration] flat-shaped article to recover after tensile loading, [to] thereby to allow said [flat-shaped] article to be elastically stretched.

2. (Twice Amended) The article according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive [is] strands are applied using a printing process.

6. (Twice Amended) The article according to claim 1, wherein said adhesive strands run in zig-zag or sinusoid curves and wherein each adjacent pair of strands have vertices which touch or overlap in a mirror symmetric configuration, forming a waffle-like configuration.

20. (Once Amended) A three-layer laminate consisting of:

two outer layers of a porous fibrous or filamentous batting, and

an inner layer sandwiched between said outer layers, said inner layer consisting of strands of thermoplastic adhesive in a latticework configuration which adheres directly to the outer layers, each strand having a sinusoidal shape with vertices which touch or overlap the vertices of an adjacent strand so that each adjacent pair of strands forms a mirror symmetric configuration, the inner layer having elastic properties at room temperature, whereby said inner layer recovers said [latticework configuration] laminate after tensile loading.

ADDITIONAL FEE:

Please charge any insufficiency of fee, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 50-0427.

R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued December 1, 2000 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Claim 1 has been amended to delete the phrase, objected to by the Examiner: "without any additional adhesive". Clearly, the inner layer formed of thermoplastic adhesive strands does adhere directly to the adjacent outer layers, since that is the meaning of the term "adhesive".

Claim 1 now defines a three-layer, elastic, flat-shaped article (i.e., a three-layer web) wherein an adhesive middle layer is formed of elastic, thermoplastic strands in a